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## Rocking out

Minden Curling Club youth curlers Hailey Switzer, left, moves forward as teammate Owen Whitteker watches his thrown rock, and Dalton Fairey moves into position to sweep during the annual Youth Curling Bonspiel on Saturday, Jan. 25 at the Haliburton Curling Club. The event showcased the talents of elementary school-aged curlers from the Haliburton Curling Club, Minden Curling Club and the Bancroft Curling Club. The bonspiel, which was a point bonspiel format and included two eight-end games for all six co-ed teams, encouraged teamwork, sportsmanship and the joy for curling. Curlers were provided snacks, refreshments and lunch. /DARREN LUM Staff

# Teacher strikes to resume next week

by CHAD INGRAM  
Times Staff

Rotating one-day strikes by members of the Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario will continue next week if the union and the Ford government are not able to reach a contract resolution before Jan. 31.

Elementary school students in Haliburton County will be affected on two days: Monday, Feb. 3, and Thursday, Feb. 6. On Feb. 3, the Trillium Lakelands District School Board will be one of a number of boards taking place in a one-day strike, and on Feb. 6, all 83,000 ETFO members throughout the province are scheduled to hit the picket lines.

ETFO president Sam Hammond said in a

press release issued Monday that he is challenging the government to come back to the negotiating table.

"There is nothing to be gained by [Education] Minister [Stephen] Lecce avoiding meaningful and fair contract talks other than further damaging the reputation of the Ford government," Hammond said in the release. "Educators and parents are not go-

ing to accept the government's deep cuts to public education that only serves to harm the quality of education for generations to come. From ETFO's perspective, fair contract talks must include: appropriate funding for special education; a strategy to address classroom violence; maintaining our internationally recognized kindergarten program; fair hiring

see ALL page 2

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# County tax increase 1.67 per cent

by CHAD INGRAM  
Times Staff

Haliburton County residents can expect a 1.67 per cent increase on the upper tier portion of their tax bills for 2020.

County councillors passed the budget during a Jan. 22 meeting.

While a draft budget presented to council in the fall had included a projected tax increase of 3.97 per cent, as treasurer Elaine Taylor told councillors last week, a larger-than-expected increase in property assessments in the county allowed her to drop the tax rate. Property taxes are calculated by multiplying the tax rate by a property's assessed value through the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation. While the first draft of the budget included an assessment increase of one per cent, when the assessment roll was delivered, it turned out assessments in the county had actually grown by 3.34 per cent, thus allowing the tax rate increase to be dropped to 1.67 per cent. Approximately one per cent of that assessment growth came from new construction, and combined property assessments in the county totals nearly \$9 billion.

For residential properties, the tax increase translates to an additional \$3.52 for every \$100,000 of assessment. So the owner of a home assessed at \$300,000 would pay an additional \$10.46 at the upper tier for the year. For commercial properties the increase will amount to \$5.61 for every \$100,000 of assessment, and for industrial properties, and increase of \$6.04 for every \$100,000 of assessment.

The 2020 county budget contains more some \$28.7 million in spending, with the tax levy constituting just more than \$19 million. The remaining money comes from sources such as provincial and federal funding and debentures.

The largest chunk of spending from the tax levy comes in the form of transportation, which includes the roads department, at 47 per cent. Health, which includes the county's EMS department, constitutes 17 per cent of spending; general government 12 per cent; social services and housing 10 per cent; planning and development eight per cent; recreation and cultural services, which is essentially the Haliburton County Public Library, five per cent; and protection to persons and property one per cent.

The budget includes a one per cent cost-of-living increase for Haliburton County staff, which equates to a \$96,000 increase in wages for the year. Wages and benefits comprise 34 per cent of spending in the budget.

There will be an overall contribution to reserves of more than \$70,000 for the year, bringing the county's total reserves to approximately \$3.95 million. The county achieved its reserve goal of \$4 million in 2018, and reserves are expected to stay around that level for 2020. Taylor also told councillors

she intends to work on a formal reserves policy, as the county is currently without one.

The county will take out a new \$3-million loan to help with roads work, but with another loan reaching the end of its payment period, the county's annual debt repayment will actually drop by more than \$320,000. CAO Mike Rutter told councillors the most recent loan will essentially bring the county to a point a sustainability with its service delivery.

When councillors decided in the spring of 2019 they would not proceed with a rural transportation project at the time, they agreed they would revisit the subject during 2020 budget deliberations. There had been \$50,000 budgeted for the project in 2019, which was left in reserve, and another \$50,000 will be contributed for 2020.

"I think there was some expensed from the \$50,000 council allocated," Rutter said, explaining that reserve now sits at just below \$43,000. "This \$50,000 will be transferred to reserves at the end of this year."

As Rutter explained, while some provincial gas tax money is earmarked for municipal transportation projects, it's only available retroactively, leaving start-up expenses for any project with the municipality for the first year. A transportation implementation plan the county had commissioned in 2018 indicated that start-up costs for a transportation system for the county could be up to \$300,000 for the first year, depending upon the model.

"Should council choose to get into the business, you are building up a reserve of almost \$100,000," Rutter said, explaining it was staff's intention to continue allotting \$50,000

per year for the purpose.

"There always comes a time in a budget process wherein ... something gets finished up or completed," said Algonquin Highlands Mayor Carol Moffatt. "And that amount of money that was put on the levy a number of years ago still remains."

Moffatt wondered if there might come a time in the near future where the completion of such a project would happen at the county level that a sufficient amount of money within the tax levy might be freed up to direct to a rural transportation project.

"That's all," Moffatt said. "More of an observation."

"The realism of the thing is that we pretty well know that, in 2020, we're not going to be able to move forward on much," said Highlands East Deputy Mayor Cec Ryall. "... Do we continue to add money to this particular project with the idea or expectation that some day, maybe we'll get something?"

"The short answer to that question is it's totally up to council," Rutter replied. "From my perspective, what we've been trying to get you in a position where first-year costs are dealt with ... So that ultimately, council can say, we're ready to pull the trigger, we're ready to go."

Tax bills for county residents consist of a county portion, lower-tier portion with those tax rates established by each of the respective lower-tier councils, and a school board portion, the latter of which has been trending downward in recent years. Of 13 counties in eastern Ontario, for 2019 Haliburton County had the second-lowest property tax rate, after the County of Frontenac.

## All extra-curriculars to be cancelled

from page 1

practices; class sizes that meet the needs of elementary students; and compensation that keeps up with inflation."

Along with the continuing strikes, if a deal is not struck by next week, then ETFO members will not take part in any extra-curricular activities. Currently, extra-curriculars that take place during the school day have been ongoing. Field trips have also been cancelled, and ETFO announced last week that elementary school students would not be receiving report cards. Secondary school students will receive report cards, but without comments, as job action by members of the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation, has been ongoing, and also includes rotating, one-day strikes.

The Ford government has made compensation for families available to assist with childcare during each day there is a strike. Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock MPP and Ontario Infrastructure Minister Laurie Scott released the following statement last week: "While parents are understandably frustrated by teacher union escalation every few years, it is unacceptable that union leaders would ramp up strike action and make families across the province scramble for childcare. We recognize the impact of union escalation on families is real, and unions expect hard-working families to bear the costs of their cyclical labour action. That's why our government launched its Support for Parents initiative that puts money directly into the pockets of parents."

## AH proceeds with fire hall renovation

by CHAD INGRAM  
Times Staff

The Township of Algonquin Highlands will proceed with the renovation of its fire station at Oxtongue Lake, known as Station 70, at the township's north end.

Councillors for the township approved awarding the contract for the project during a special meeting on Jan. 24.

As a staff report indicated, \$70,000 was budgeted for the project, which includes a new roof and washroom, in 2019. However, while a tender was put out for the job last fall,

no bids were received. Following its purchasing policy, the township then solicited quotes from four contractors, receiving quotes from two. The job was awarded to RCOOL Construction, which had the lower of the two bids, at \$76,000 plus HST, with the additional \$6,000 included in the fire department's 2020 budget.

At the same meeting, councillors appointed Wayne McIsaac as interim chief of Algonquin Highlands Fire Services, as former chief Mike Cavanagh recently resigned his post to take a job as deputy chief of Peterborough's fire department. The township was beginning to conduct interviews for Cavanagh's full-time replacement this week.

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# Beauty Basics brings one-stop shop together

by SUE TIFFIN  
Times Staff

When Amy Joanu speaks about her vision, her business and the upcoming grand opening of her one-stop beauty shop, her energy is palpable.

Joanu has needed that energy to build her aesthetic services business from the ground up, beginning about four years ago in the basement of her house. At around that time she had experience at local businesses as an aesthetician, but said that she wanted something different.

"My daughter was in daycare, I was like, I knew this wasn't for me," she said. "I wanted to be raising my daughter and eating my cake and doing everything."

With the support of her husband, she invested the couple's savings and enrolled in microblading courses.

"I just went for it and I ended up loving it," she said. "I had so much support from people trusting me with this blade, doing their eyebrows. Four years later, I'm so thankful they did because I wouldn't be where I [am] without the support of people trying me."

To offer her services while also being able to care for her children, Joanu renovated a room in her basement, which took just four days. Then another, to accommodate pedicure services. And then another, also incorporating a waiting room, bathroom and a playroom, bringing other women in too, to offer everything from shellac manicures to eyelash extensions and teeth whitening.

"This was all in my basement," she laughed. "My husband was on board with everything every step of the way. Every time I came up with a new idea or I wanted to take another course, he said, babe, just go for it. Just do it."

Joanu said she wanted to offer a welcoming, open space for clients, a one-stop beauty service spot.

"That was my vision," she said. "I just wanted a one-stop beauty spot where you could get anything done. It was a quick service, inexpensive but still great quality and still a place where you never felt uncomfortable or you were feeling judged."

Besides offering an espresso machine for clients to have an unrushed coffee, Joanu said kids have been welcome as well to offer



Beauty Basics by Amy celebrates a grand opening at its new location on Bobcaygeon Road on Feb. 1, featuring services offered by, from left, Dawn Maclam, Sheri Meyer, Julie Windrum, Amy Joanu and Jennifer Emmerson. /Photo by Amanda Rowden Photography

moms the freedom to get services while not having to find childcare to do so.

"My biggest thing is, while I'm doing these services, you are more than welcome to bring your kids," she said. "This is a safe place. This isn't a spa where kids or cell phones are frowned upon, this is a place where you come, as you are. For any mom that thinks they aren't able to get out for an hour, come. Get your butt over here, come, feel like a princess for 20 minutes, half an hour."

Joanu has loved seeing the change in her clients as they receive services.

"You're getting the quick things that are just those small little wins for a mom, a wife, a girlfriend, a friend, a person," she said. "For me, it was having a safe zone where you come in feeling down, you get a quick brow wax, you get your nails done, and the energy of that person that changed is what did it for me. I thought yep, this is what I wanted to do."

For Joanu, an interest in the beauty industry began when she was in elementary school. She moved to the area from Richmond Hill in 2002, and said she was already plucking her eyebrows and wearing makeup in Grade 6. She shared those skills with her friends, which caused a few phone

calls from their moms to her own, in part because pencil thin brows were popular at the time, she noted with a laugh. Joanu did her friends makeup at Grade 8 graduation, and then in Grade 12. Despite studying law at college, her passion for beauty initiated a small business she ran with Kristen Rowden – K & A Makeup and Hair Design, traveling to offer makeup and hair at weddings. "We were so busy right away," she said.

After her daughter was born, she began taking night classes offered in Barrie, Peterborough and Toronto and now just a few years later, is seeing her five-year plan come to fruition in four years with the opening of Beauty Basics by Amy in the building previously occupied by Ommmh Beauty Boutique (Ommmh Beauty Boutique has moved to 8 Milne Street, where EAT! was previously located).

"My dreams are always getting bigger," she said. "It's not just being comfortable. I could live at my house and be so comfortable doing what I'm doing, make good money, but it's way more than that. I want more, I want the town to have more, I want everything to be more, and I feel like doing it in my house is keeping it very comfortable and sheltered and is not giving it that extra vision

that I had."

Joanu invited talented women also working as entrepreneurs to join her team: Sheri Meyer, Dawn Macklam, Julie Windrum, and Jennifer Emmerson, encouraging them to pursue their own goals.

"My vision was more than what was just in my basement," she said. "I want more services, I want more girls on my team, I don't want it just being Beauty Basics by Amy, I want it to be Beauty Basics by all of these women that are having the same vision that I'm having, that want to do the same things that I'm doing."

The team will offer services that include mani-pedis, bridal makeup, eyelash lifts and extensions, full body waxing, permanent and semi brows, Botox, fillers, laser hair removal and cosmetic teeth whitening.

"I just feel like if you have this tribe of talented, exceptional women, how can you go wrong?" she said.

Beauty Basics by Amy is located at 136 Bobcaygeon Road and welcomes the public to their grand opening on Feb. 1 from 12 to 4 p.m. For further information visit Amy's Makeup Design & Aesthetics on Facebook, @beautybasics\_byamy on Instagram or by phone at 705-286-0000.



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## COUNCIL MEETINGS

Public Welcome

Meetings are held at 9:00 AM in the Minden Council Chambers, 7 Milne Street.

**Feb 13** – Committee of the Whole Council Meeting

**Feb 27** – Regular Council Meeting

For Council, Boards & Advisory Committee meetings, visit [www.minden hills.ca](http://www.minden hills.ca)

**Note: Council meetings are reduced to one (1) for the months of July, August and December**

## WINTER PARKING

From Nov 1st to Apr 30th, overnight parking is prohibited between the hours of midnight and 8:00 AM on township roadways and parking lots. Furthermore, parking in the turning circle of a cul-de-sac is prohibited during all hours.

Vehicles parked in these areas that prohibit the removal of snow will be towed away and/or ticketed at the owner's expense.

## NOTICE – 2020 BUDGET DELIBERATIONS

The Council of the Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills will commence the 3rd Round of its 2020 Budget deliberations during its Regular Meeting of Council scheduled

for January 30, 2020.

The meeting will commence at 9:00 AM in the Council Chambers, located at 7 Milne Street, Minden ON.

## RIVERWALK & WETLANDS BOARDWALK – WINTER USAGE

The Boardwalk & Logger's Crossing Bridge are cleared of snow regularly but are not sanded or salted. Residents are advised to "Exercise Caution" when using these pathways as they could develop slippery conditions.

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## WINTER SAND AVAILABLE FOR RESIDENTIAL USE

Is available at the Minden Curling Club parking lot, 50 Prentice Street for residential use. Please note there is a limit of one five-gallon container per car. Sand is for personal use only, no commercial users please.

# County hesitant on health unit request

by CHAD INGRAM  
Times Staff

Haliburton County, along with the City of Kawartha Lakes, is not in a hurry to pay additional money that is being requested of it by the Haliburton Kawartha Pine Ridge District Health Unit.

Late last year, the municipalities served by the health unit received letters requesting an increase in the amount of funding they provide to the health unit.

In 2019, the Ford government announced it was changing the funding formula for health units for 2020. Under the former formula, the province was to take care of 75 per cent of

costs, municipalities 25 per cent. However, in the case of Haliburton County, the City of Kawartha Lakes and Northumberland County, that split was already about 71/29, meaning the county's shortfall equated to some \$19,000. The Ford government also announced last year its plan to merge the province's 35 health units into 10, with plans to group what is now the HKPR District Health Unit with larger entities including Peterborough Public Health, Durham Regional Health Department, and Hastings Prince Edward Health Unit.

In November, the municipalities served by the HKPR District Health Unit received letters requesting they allot more of their tax levies to the health unit in the wake of fund-

ing reductions from the province.

"In 2020, in addition to the \$1,200,000 reduction in base funding from the Ministry of Health, we anticipate financial pressures related to increased costs for insurance, WSIB, leasing and staffing, which we estimate will add an additional \$500,000 to our funding shortfall for a total of \$1,700,000," that letter, from health board chairman Doug Elmslie, read. "While we were advised by ministry staff that we would expect approximately \$800,000 in one-time funding to help with our transition costs, we have received nothing in writing regarding this amount from the ministry."

"While we are very appreciative of our municipalities on-going financial support of the health unit, with yearly funding increases in the order of two to 2.5 per cent in their portion of our cost-shared budget, the increases have not been sufficient to keep up with annual cost increases to the health unit," that letter continued, explaining the health unit was seeking a 10 per cent increase in municipal funding.

Neither Haliburton County and City of Kawartha Lakes councils approved the requested increase, and during a Jan. 22 meeting, county councillors received a followup letter.

"This change to provincial funding has left the board of health in the difficult position of providing programs and services without adequate funding," that letter, also from Elmslie, read. "That is why we have sought an increase to the municipal levy. If the municipalities have chosen to not pay this increase, they will be shown as being in arrears."

The letter went on to explain the board of

health would be seeking advice from the ministry about how to proceed.

"That's a bit of a hoot," said Algonquin Highlands Deputy Mayor and County Warden Liz Danielsen. "We'll be in arrears."

"Well, we will be," said Dysart et al Mayor Andrea Roberts, who's the county's representative on the board of health. "I'm not sure what happens here . . . We talk about fiduciary responsibility . . . When I sit on the board of health, I have to support the board of health."

County chief administrative officer Mike Rutter noted the situation is without precedent and told councillors he's been in conversation with his counterparts in the City of Kawartha Lakes and Northumberland County. The municipalities are requesting from the health unit a list of services that are mandated by the province, versus discretionary services.

"I think that would help form a better conversation, a more detailed conversation," Rutter told councillors.

Council was fine with waiting for that information.

"When you're being asked for additional money, you're being told, you will pay us more money, then we want to be able to say, hold on, we need to have a say in this," Danielsen said. "There's so much going on in the area of health services in the province and we don't know where a lot of it's going to land, but I take offence to being sent a letter that says what this one does."

Minden Hills Mayor Brent Devolin agreed.

"This is kind of a hill to die on," Devolin said. "The minute you make us pay directly, then we're owed to know the lay of the land."



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To register for these dates, contact Elisha at [eweiss@minderhills.ca](mailto:eweiss@minderhills.ca)



Municipality of Dysart et al  
*In the Heart of the Haliburton Highlands*



Ontario



# Speed, alcohol top factors in snowmobile fatalities

by JENN WATT  
Editor

Nearly half of snowmobile fatalities in Ontario in the last 10 years occurred on frozen lakes or rivers; 45 per cent involved alcohol or drugs; and 34 per cent were in Central Region, which includes the Haliburton Highlands.

Last week, the Ontario Provincial Police released their 10-year trend analysis of deaths due to motorized snow vehicle collisions and police are hoping that the results change behaviour patterns and save lives.

“Unfortunately, it’s a very grim statistic because you’re talking about 175 deaths [in 10 years] as a result of snowmobiling, which is a recreational activity or a sport,” said Sgt. Paul Potter, co-ordinator of specialized patrol.

Excessive speed and driving too fast for the conditions were two of the top factors in snowmobile deaths, police say, along with alcohol impairment and losing control of the vehicle.

Potter said that if speed were taken out of the equation, “we wouldn’t have nearly the amount of fatalities that we’re currently dealing with.”

Circumstances related to those who died while traveling on frozen lakes or rivers include “intentionally driving onto open water (puddle jumping/water skipping), breaking through the ice and collisions with other snowmobiles and natural landmarks,” media materials from the OPP state.

Potter said the OPP has three SAVE teams, which stands for snow-vehicle, all-terrain vehicle and vessel enforcement, in addition to the local detachment’s enforcement program. Police talk to operators about risky behaviour, laws and regulations they may not be aware of, and reach out to local snowmobile clubs.

“The more we can do to make this sport safer, the better it is for everybody,” Potter said.

Police are a welcome presence on local trails, said John

Enright, a director of the Haliburton County Snowmobile Association. He said that in his experience, people who get into accidents are frequently driving at speeds too fast for the conditions.

“What people have to understand is all our trails have speed limits. They are all posted. The maximum speed on any HCSA trail is 50 km/hr,” he said.

HSCA maintains 378 kilometres of trails and 70 kilometres of water crossings, which are staked and marked at 100-metre intervals.

“Where people get into trouble is where they go off the trail, don’t follow a marked route on a lake, [or] travel roads that are not part of the trail system,” he said.

Trail conditions and locations can be found at [hcsa.ca](http://hcsa.ca).

In Haliburton County, fire departments are often called if a snowmobile has been in a serious collision. Dysart et al

Fire Department fire chief Mike Iles said the number of collisions varies per year. In 2015, for example, the department responded to seven snowmobile accidents, in 2019 they responded to one.

Most of the snowmobile collisions his department responds to are on trails or on frozen lakes.

In the rare occurrence of water rescues, each fire department in the county is a little different in its response, which depends on available training, equipment and the rules that have been decided upon by municipal councils.

The Dysart et al department has a rescue boat, floater suits and ropes available for rescues as well as a snowmobile and a “snowbulance,” which carries a patient and paramedic.

Iles said reducing accidents comes down to snowmobilers knowing their surroundings, knowing their snowmobile and what it can do, and knowing the lakes. “Typically, it’s speed and from what I’ve seen ... lack of familiarity [with surroundings],” he said.

In Highlands East, acting fire chief Chris Baughman said his department responds to about three to four snowmobile collisions a year.

“We do have some that are on the trails. That might entail a breakdown where the person has gotten too cold, or an accident,” he said. The department has a snowmobile and ATV with tracks and rescue wagons when they need to go out to get someone down a trail.

In his experience, he said obeying the speed limit and not drinking and driving would be the two factors most important in reducing the number of accidents.

Potter said he wants to see the number of fatalities in the province decrease.

“Driver behaviour: it needs to be changed and it can be changed,” he said. “We’re not identifying issues with the trails. We’re not identifying issues with the equipment or the snowmobiles themselves. It’s the driver’s behaviour. That’s what’s causing this.”

“

Where a lot of people get into trouble  
is where they go off the trail ...

— JOHN ENRIGHT, HCSA

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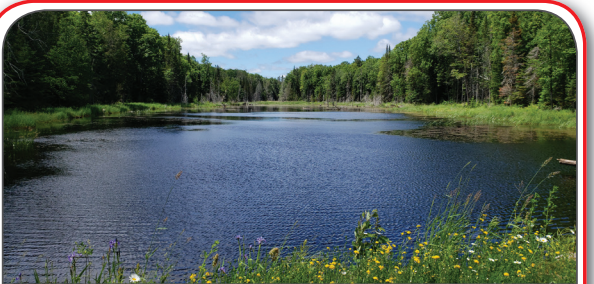
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# Mental health crisis

TODAY IS Bell Let’s Talk Day, an annual fundraising campaign by the telecommunications leviathan where five cents is donated to mental health programming each time someone makes a social media post using the campaign’s hashtag. Last year, the campaign raised some \$100 million and it’s nice that a multi-billion-dollar entity has such a campaign in the first place. Certainly, it’s not compelled to. There’s also been criticism lobbed at the campaign over the years, including that it essentially amounts to self-promotion through the exploitation of those suffering mental illness, and with questions around the degree that corporate culture, in general, has contributed to what experts are repeatedly calling a global mental health crisis.

According to the World Health Organization, globally, some 450 million people are experiencing mental health disorders, about 300 million of them suffering some form of depression, the latter figure equivalent to nearly 4.5 per cent of the world’s population. According to the Canadian Mental Health Association, in Canada, one in two adults will have at least one bout with a mental disorder before they reach the age of 40, one in five adults is having problems with their mental health at any given time, and nearly one in 10 will experience major depression during their lifetime.

While campaigns such as Bell Let’s Talk Day have helped lessen stigma and open discussions around the topic of mental health, the scope of the problem is so vast that the only real solution can come from government and deeper societal change in general.

Theories abound as to the cause of rising rates of depression, especially among young adults, or

“millennials,” where rates seem to be increasing quicker than with other age groups. Some suggest that digital technology, and in particular social media, may play a role, as it can be socially isolating but also create a platform where people can curate artificially perfect lives that create an unobtainable standard. It’s also been suggested that fully understanding the implications of climate change can cause depression. Millennials are often entering a low-paying and precious workforce with high loads of student debt, and maybe



**CHAD INGRAM**  
Reporter

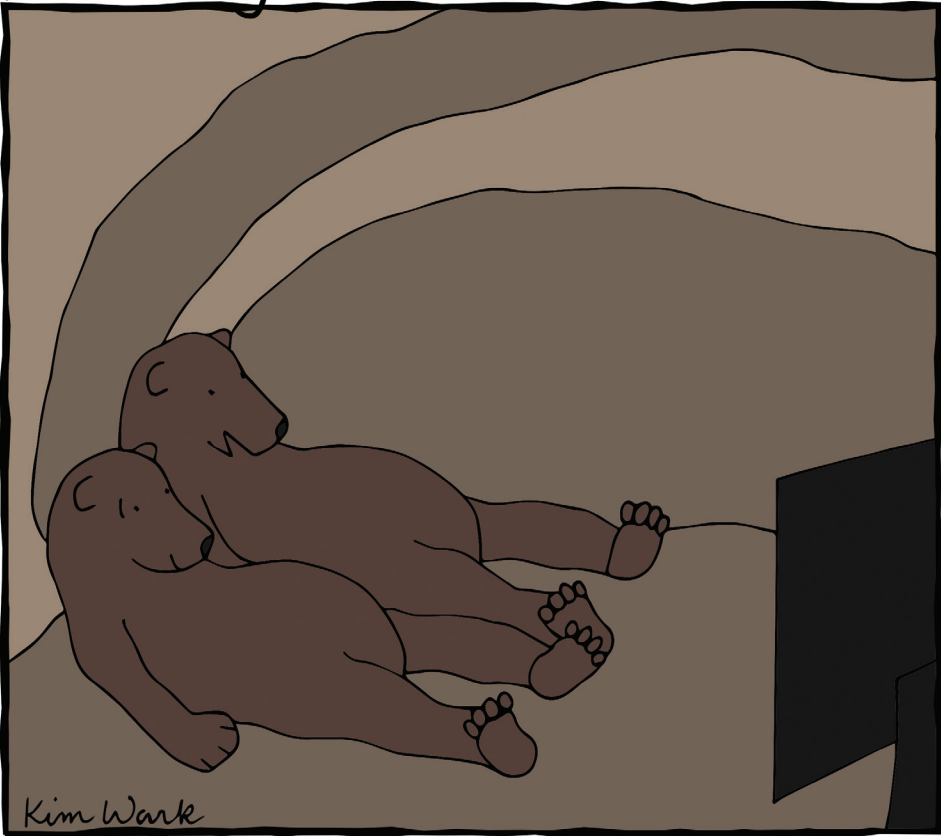
for some, the prospect of spending decades in highly pressurized work environments within a meaningless capitalist culture that is indifferent to their existence is just not all that appealing to begin with.

To that end, corporations and governments around the world might want to pay attention to what’s happening in New Zealand. In a successful experiment that’s been ongoing for a couple of years now, companies are switching to four-day work weeks, paying employees the same amount as their previous five days totalled. The results have been that workers are happier and therefore more productive, often achieving more in four days than they previously were in five.

Last year, New Zealand’s government introduced a budget that it heralded as prioritizing well-being over endless economic growth, with a huge bolstering of funding for mental health, particularly to address depression and anxiety, the two most common mood disorders.

This is the kind of culture shift that is required on a global scale if the world’s mental health crisis is really to be dealt with sufficiently.

# Kwarky



Kim Wark

“Hibernate sounds classier than binge watch.”

# Woodpecker envy

THE OTHER DAY I watched a pileated woodpecker do exactly what I typically do after reading a Trump tweet. Yet, as it was banging its head against a tree, I couldn’t help but envy that particular bird and admire woodpeckers in general. Call me naive, but I happen to think their species followed an extraordinary evolutionary route that makes far more sense than ours. And the closer we get to tax time, the more I believe that.

Like all outdoorsy types, I have had plenty of opportunity over the years to observe woodpeckers banging their heads against trees. But rather than feel superior, I have come to the conclusion that they have it all figured out. I can’t do it without a helmet.

Also, they live a carefree life that allows them to fly anywhere, without extra baggage charges, line ups, and airport delays. And forget Yelp, they find a good meal merely by using their beaks to bore a hole in the nearest tree. In that sense, they are light years ahead of us. And, if you need further proof, I’ll remind you that no woodpecker has ever been exposed to a Trump tweet.

To live this glamorous life, the woodpecker has evolved a skull and beak that would cause them to be welcomed into any group of English soccer hooligans. And there is something to be said for that kind of appeal. I also envy the fact that they only eat grubs and bugs which they capture and lap up with their tongues, which, sounds gross, but is still far preferable to eating kale or tofu.

My affection for woodpeckers might come as a surprise to most bowhunters out there. You see, woodpeckers and bowhunt-

ers have a complicated relationship. This is primarily because nothing ruins a good tree stand nap like the sudden sound of a woodpecker tapping on the tree bark beside your ear. Also, if you ever wondered why Tree Bark camo is avoided by some hunters, you can blame bad experiences with woodpeckers. Of course, no one will ever tell you they had a bad pecker experience, but it happens more times than you’d think. Which brings me to another point – for the purposes of clarity and complete understanding, never call them peckers.

This is a mistake beginning birders sometimes make in an effort to sound overly familiar with the species. If you don’t see how this could be a problem, think of it this way. People are OK with seeing photos you took of a Hairy woodpecker but not so much when you abbreviate it.

Regardless of these little missteps, watching woodpeckers, whether they are at your bird

feeder or in the woods is one of life’s simple pleasures. It’s almost impossible not to be fascinated by the way they climb up and down trees and hammer their beaks into the hard wood until they find the food they need or work out their frustrations.

They also provide many benefits to other species and the forest in general. The holes they make are often expanded and used as nesting cavities by birds and squirrels. They also provide pathways for diseases and insects that will eventually kill a tree. This sounds destructive but it actually benefits a forest in many ways.

I would like to end this column with my favourite woodpecker joke but I won’t. These days, most people think knock-knock jokes are lame.



**STEVE GALEA**  
Beyond 35

# IN OTHER WORDS

Columns and Letters to the Editor

## Blackhawk finds a home

**A**MAZING NEWS! The Blackhawk is alive and skating. No, not Blackhawk as in the Chicago Blackhawks of the National Hockey League. They appear to be dead for this season, drifting between fourth and fifth place in the league's western division.

I'm talking about Blackhawk the lost cat, who I've just sighted skating – slipping and sliding actually – across the ice-crusted snow behind our cottage.

Blackhawk is a pure black cat with brilliant green eyes first spotted in the woods behind us many weeks ago. I can't remember exactly when, but it was certainly before Christmas.

He (or she) is a domestic cat, either abandoned or lost. Possibly the pet of a cottager who closed up in late fall, not to return until spring.

I was concerned when Blackhawk first appeared. We had been through the mysteriously appearing cat routine before. Many years ago, and it did not end well for the cat.

That cat had gone feral. I made plans to trap it and bring it to a humane society.

That plan changed when it tried to attack two grandchildren playing on the deck. They escaped it by running into the cottage and pulling the screen door shut. The cat threw itself at the screen, hissing and clawing.

Trapping was no longer an option. I decided to follow the famous order given in the movie *Apocalypse Now*: "Exterminate with extreme prejudice."

I'm not a great fan of cats but Blackhawk appeared to be a nice fellow, or gal, with no signs of having gone feral. No evidence that it should be treated with extreme prejudice.

It was thin, hungry and lonesome looking. But it would not approach, even when offered food.

We began setting out food at a distance. Blackhawk came to the food regularly and ate hungrily. It remained wary and kept its distance, running off if we tried to approach.

One morning the cat did not appear at the food dish. I scouted the area and a lingering fear was confirmed. A set of fresh coyote tracks led into Blackhawk's feeding area.

I told my wife that we could give up our attempts to lure Blackhawk into coming in from the cold. He or she had become a hungry coyote's breakfast.

However, next morning it was back, staring at the kitchen windows with that "where's my breakfast" look.

We were thrilled to learn that it had not been eaten. Great news, but we had another problem.

We live only half-time at the lake, and were getting set to leave, likely for two weeks. Would Blackhawk survive?

We could leave food out for it, but Blackhawk would likely eat it all at once then be left without anything. Or, another animal could come along and steal the food.

There was nothing much we could do, so we left Blackhawk to fend for itself.

When we returned 12 days later, Blackhawk was alive and well. Somehow, it had survived, despite a couple of mornings with temperatures in the minus 20 Celsius range.

We spotted it behind a tree, watching the blue jays gorging at a feeder. Then it ran from behind the tree and lunged at one of the birds, but didn't even come close to catching it.

Its hunting skills did not appear to be well developed and we had not been able to determine whether it even had claws. However, somehow it was surviving on its own.

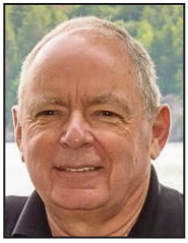
All our attempts to lure Blackhawk inside failed, so we turned to Google for advice. There we learned that domestic cats who live outside for long periods lose their capacity for socializing with humans.

We also learned that such cats, when caught and turned over to a humane society, sometimes are euthanized because there is low hope that they can become pets again.

Catching Blackhawk and finding she or he a good home was complicated. How were we to figure out what was best for this cat?

So, we decided to leave Blackhawk's fate up to Blackhawk. It had survived the longest stretch of the winter and looked reasonably healthy and happy.

Maybe it has decided it already has a good home outside. If not, our kitchen door always will be opened to a stray needing shelter from the cold and the wild.



**JIM POLING SR.**

*From Shaman's Rock*

## letters to the editor

## Smothered in plastic

**To the Editor,**

A few months ago, in response to overwhelming evidence that the earth is being smothered in plastic, Sobeys announced that, this month, they will begin using only paper grocery bags in pilot stores. In response to this, Loblaw's immediately informed the public that they would continue selling plastic bags. Some corporations have no conscience!

As this new year begins, we would like to honour our small businesses for their conscience and contributions to helping reduce single use plastics in Minden:

Up River Trading Co. has always put purchases in paper bags. They now have fully compostable coffee cups. They no longer sell bottled water, but they do sell a variety of reusable items such as bees wax food wrap, stainless steel straws (paper ones as well) and a wide variety of stainless drink containers.

Unique Floral Designs uses brown paper wrapping, paper shopping bags and some recycled ribbon.

Coneybeare's butcher shop still uses butcher paper & string for wrapping meat.

Organic Times sells locally made cloth bags and now has a large line of eco-friendly products. Paper bags are available for bin products as well as funnels for those who wish to bring their own containers. Purchases are placed in paper or biodegradable plastic bags.

Minden River Cone uses paper takeout containers.

Molly's Bistro provides cardboard containers for take-home baking and paper sandwich bags. Straws are only given when requested.

Graham's Farm Market sells eggs in paper cartons and customers bring their own bags for pro-

duce at their home stand.

V&S sells metal straws and a number of stainless steel containers.

Mark's Restaurant uses foil containers with paper or styrofoam lids and cardboard boxes for take-out, which is placed in paper bags.

Nourished sells much of its vegan fare in glass jars. They use bio-degradable cellulose containers but encourage patrons to bring their own. They feel it is challenging for small businesses to offer environmentally friendly options because of the limitations placed on them by the Health Unit and government.

The Dominion Hotel uses paper napkins made from recycled material, has recyclable drink cups and paper bags for take-out orders. Compostable straws will be provided on request.

Boshkung Brewing/Rhubarb use fully compostable containers for their take-aways.

Thanks to EAT! for the many sustainable products they sold. Ommmh Boutique is now in the building and there could possibly be a limited amount of food in the future as well as fill-your-own, shampoo etc.

Foodland now sells mesh produce bags.

The municipality does not provide bottled water in its facility. Office staff, council etc. use tap water (some use the Brita) but there is no plastic in evidence. It is important for governments at all levels to set an example and for all of us to do our part, as well.

Enjoy your paper bags from Foodland when they arrive but when you shop at Valu-mart, please bring your own bag. Don't feed Loblaw's corporate greed by helping them make millions of dollars a year polluting our planet.

**Pat Brezina and Sue Sisson**  
**Concerned Citizens of Haliburton County**

## On purpose or by accident

**I**FIND IT INTERESTING how the fitness industry continues to change its focus on what is important to the human body. When I first became a personal trainer, "functional fitness" was the buzz term. Exercise programs were "core" focused. Free weights were being chosen over machines. I guess at some point machines were the hot ticket item because free weights have been around forever. Now the focus is shifting to body weight exercises, specifically to joint mobility. I am grateful for this change but I would guess that the fitness equipment companies are not.

Range of motion is defined as a measurement of the distance and direction a joint can move to its full potential. Here's the thing, that potential is reduced if the joint is not moved to the extremes that it is capable of. One of the best examples is this: think of a highly trained gymnast doing the splits. We may think "ugh" when they do them but they pull them off without any trouble. Our reaction is because we think "that would hurt." That is the difference between doing them on purpose or by accident. Movements that happen by accident often result in an injury. The idea behind mobility training is to increase the range of motion of joints a little bit at a time. The closer the range gets to the joints full potential the more the risk of injury is reduced. That's why I love this focus. It is so logical and much more functional than sitting on an exercise ball. Not that sitting on an exercise ball is a waste of time. It's still valuable.



**LAURIE SWEIG**  
*Practical Fitness*

Here are a few things you can try to see how you are doing when it comes to range of motion in various joints:

- Neck: Let your head drop forward for a few seconds. Return to neutral. Next left ear to left shoulder. Back to neutral. Let your head gently fall back. Back to neutral. Lastly right ear to right shoulder. (Hold each position for a few seconds).
- Shoulders: Test your range by gently swinging your arms up over your head. Then move them forward and back.
- Hips: Either standing (and holding on to a table) or sitting on the floor, see how far you can spread your legs apart.
- Knees: Try a squat with your knees together and then jutting out. Only lower yourself as far as you can without pain.

• Ankles: While standing on your left foot, position the right foot so the outside of the foot is on the floor. As much as you can tolerate, shift your weight on to your right foot. Next try it with the inside of your right foot on the floor. Now repeat those two movements with the left foot.

These types of challenges can be done on every joint in your body. The idea is to tap your current range of motion. Doing this regularly will increase your range regardless of age or activity level. That's the idea behind doing them on purpose!

Something to think about.

Laurie Sweig is a certified personal fitness trainer and spinning instructor. She owns and operates *The Point for Fitness*. She can be reached at [laurie@thepointforfitness.com](mailto:laurie@thepointforfitness.com).



**Minden youth compete in spiel**

Minden Curling Club youth curlers' Dalton Fairey, left, and Owen Whitteker watch a thrown rock slide to the house during the annual Youth Curling Bonspiel on Saturday, Jan. 25 at the Haliburton Curling Club. The bonspiel, which was a point bonspiel format and included two eight-end games for all six co-ed teams, encouraged teamwork, sportsmanship and the joy for curling. Curlers were provided snacks, refreshments and lunch. /DARREN LUM Staff



Minden Curling Club youth curlers Dalton Fairey, left, and Hailey Switzer sweep for a rock.



Youth curlers compete during the annual Youth Curling Bonspiel.

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or email: [dancehappenshere@outlook.com](mailto:dancehappenshere@outlook.com)

**tickets**

\$30 in advance  
\$35 at the door  
\$20 for students

DH3 is a part of the Haliburton County Community Co-operative

# Fire & Ice

**A TASTING EVENT**

**Sunday, February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2020 7:00 – 10:00pm**

(February long weekend)

**Enjoy a tasting of select Scotch whiskies, and samplings of locally prepared food**

Local Food Purveyors will be competing for the

**People's Choice Award**

**Admission**

**\$30 includes food sampling and 1 drink ticket**

(additional drink tickets are available)

Locally crafted beer, wine and free non-alcoholic drinks will also be available

**This event is for adults 19+**

**Dress warmly to enjoy our bonfires and outdoor fun.**

Tickets available at: Agnes Jamieson Gallery (Minden), Up River Trading(Minden & Haliburton), Organic Times (Minden), Pharmasave (Minden), On the Spot Variety (Minden)

**F** Minden Hills Cultural Centre Foundation

**Event Location**  
Minden Hills Cultural Centre  
176 Bobcaygeon Road  
Minden, Ontario

# Roberts deputy warden for 2020

by CHAD INGRAM  
Times Staff

*The following are brief reports of items discussed during a Jan. 22 meeting of Haliburton County council.*

Dysart et al Mayor Andrea Roberts was chosen by her colleagues as deputy warden of Haliburton County for 2020.

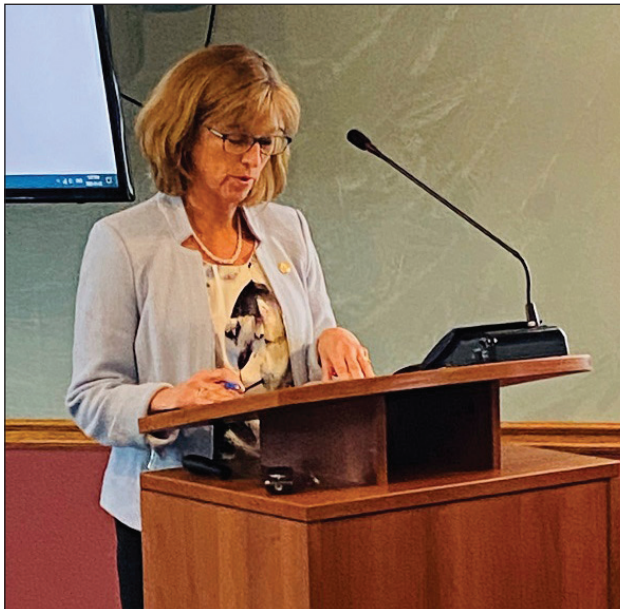
While such positions are not often contested within county council, in a somewhat novel process for councillors, they voted by secret ballot for either Roberts or Highlands East Mayor Dave Burton, both of whom had expressed interest in holding the position for the year. The role, created by county council in 2017, was designed to assist the warden, who is the head of county council. Councillors agreed that in recent years the warden position has evolved to entail more work, including provincial-level advocacy activities through organizations such as the Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus. The deputy warden assists the warden in her or his duties, acting as a replacement when necessary.

Burton was deputy warden for 2019, to Warden Liz Danielsen, who was acclaimed again by colleagues as warden for 2020.

## Pushing back against SOLS cost increase

The County of Haliburton will write to the Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport and the Minister of Transportation, requesting that the province reconsider or phase-in a large price-hike for its Tourism-Oriented Destination Signage program. TODS signs are the blue ones spotted along provincial roadways directing motorists to tourism-themed businesses or municipal attractions. The price increase is more than double, with signs that previously cost \$300 per year costing \$800 per year beginning in 2020.

A survey conducted by the county's tourism department to which 40 businesses or municipal entities responded indi-



Andrea Roberts, mayor of Dysart et al, will be deputy warden of the County of Haliburton for 2020. She was elected to the position by her fellow county councillors during a meeting on Jan. 22. This year's warden is Algonquin Highlands Deputy Mayor Liz Danielsen. County council elects its warden and deputy warden each year. /Photo courtesy of the County of Haliburton

cated that while nearly 60 per cent of them had participated in the TODS program in 2019, fewer than 45 per cent said they intended to participate in the program in 2020, and more than 40 per cent of those who indicated they wouldn't be participating indicated the reason was the increase in price.

The county's submission mentions specifically the hardship the change will bring to local businesses.

## Grant funding for governance review

The county has applied for and received modernization funding from the province in the form of a \$150,000 grant that will be pay for the service delivery and governance review the county is undertaking.

The study will look at the delivery of services, in particular, which tier is best suited to deliver which service, opportunities for consolidation of services, etc., and may also lead to recommendations to change the local governance structure itself, such as the possibility of an amalgamated, single-tier government. The county has released the request for proposals for the project and a short list of candidates is to make presentations to county council on Feb. 12, and county councillors are to select a consultant on Feb. 26. The project is to be concluded by June 12, under the guidelines of the provincial funding.



*Have a thought, comment or opinion you'd like to share?*

Send a letter to the editor to  
[jenn@haliburtonpress.com](mailto:jenn@haliburtonpress.com)



## Pond Hockey Rocks the Pinestone

*A chance for you to experience what it's like to party like a "Ponder"*

### Baz Littlerock Band (Jan 24)

A High-energy rock band that plays a wide variety of rock classics.

### Neon Nostalgic (Jan 25)

A high energy rock show in the format of a LIVE BAND VIDEO DANCE PARTY. Featuring all your favourite songs synced to the actual original music videos.

### Rude E Bones (Jan 31)

A high energy band playing an eclectic mix of tunes to rock the room including Queen, Journey, AC/DC, Zeppelin, Doobies, Bowie, Foo fighters, the Cult, Prince and much more!

### Arden & the Tourists (Feb 1)

A pond Hockey and Haliburton favourite. This event sold out last year! Limited number of tickets are available.

Doors Open: 9pm

Pricing: \$15 ADVANCE. \$20 AT THE DOOR. Wrist band policy in place. Players and volunteers FREE. Visit the **Canadian National Pond Hockey Facebook page** for info on our discounted ticket offer.

### Volunteers Wanted!

Join our team as we host teams from all over for two weekends of fun! Various indoor and outdoor positions available. Volunteers receive event swag, meals invitation to all Pond parties and volunteer recognition party.



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Ice racing returns

A car negotiates a corner during the DAC (Deutscher Automobile Club) Ice Races on Saturday, Jan. 25 at the Minden fairgrounds. This event was part of the CASC Onario Region's ice racing series, which continues every weekend on Saturdays and Sundays at the Minden fairgrounds until March. Races are subject to the weather. Spectators are welcome to come and admission is free. /Submitted by Darby Bayly



Racers hit the straightaway before the start/finish line.



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Racers take a corner before hitting the straightaway.

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We are currently working on a new publication called County Life Magazine that will be distributed beginning in April 2020. This magazine will be celebrating the successes in the Haliburton Highlands and much more.

This magazine will also include a **Non-Profit Community Service Directory**. There will be no charge to have your non-profit service included in this directory. If you would like your service included in this listing, please email Pat Lewis at [classifieds@haliburtonpress.com](mailto:classifieds@haliburtonpress.com)



People gather around the bonfire at the Minden Hills Cultural Centre at the 2017 Fire and Ice event. The fundraiser for the cultural centre is returning this year on the Family Day Weekend with scotch-tasting, a local food competition and bonfire./DARREN LUM Staff

## Fire and Ice returning to cultural centre

The popular scotch-tasting event Fire and Ice is returning to Minden in February to raise funds for the Minden Hills Cultural Centre.

Attendees will sample snacks prepared as part of a local food competition, gather around a warm bonfire and enjoy a tasting of scotch. Local beer, wine and mocktails will also be available.

The fun begins at 7 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 16 of the long weekend until 10 p.m. at the cultural centre with food tasting in the Welch

Room and drinks at the Sterling Bank.

Fire and Ice is a 19+ event and organizers ask that attendees bring a designated driver or make plans for a safe trip home. Tickets are \$30 and include food sampling and one drink ticket (with the option to purchase more). Event tickets are available at the Agnes Jamieson Gallery, Organic Times, On the Spot, and Pharmasave in Minden and at Up River Trading Co. in Minden and Haliburton.

Staff



### Rowdy Robbie Burns Night

Mansfield Highland Dancers Billie MacDonald, from left, Lacey MacDonald and Jeralyn Lynch dance, accompanied by Andrew Mansfield at the annual Robbie Burns Night on Saturday, Jan. 25 at the Royal Canadian Legion in Haliburton. Presented by the Haliburton Highlanders Pipes and Drums band, the event included performances by the band, dancing performances by the Mansfield Highland Dancers, scotch tasting, dancing and featured the Scottish dish haggis during dinner. It commemorates the life of Scottish poet Robert Burns, who was born on Jan. 25, 1759. Burns is best known for the New Year's poem, Auld Lang Syne. /DARREN LUM Staff



The Haliburton Highlanders Pipes and Drums band performs.



## SNOWSHOE hikes!

**"DISCOVER BARNUM CREEK"**

**Monday January 27th, 2:00pm –4:00pm**

Hike Leader: Rick Whitteker

**"WILD WAYS OF WHITE WATER"**

**Monday February 10th, 2:00pm-4:00pm**

**White Water Preserve (meet in parking lot on Horseshoe Lk Rd)**

Hike Leader: Rick Whitteker

**"A GLIMPSE OF THE GLEBE"**

**Monday February 24th, 2:00pm –4:00pm**

**Glebe Park (meet in front of Haliburton Museum)**

Hike Leader: Rick Whitteker

No  
Cost!

**PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED!**

For more information:

Elisha: eweiss@mindenhills.ca

Andrea: amueller@dysartetal.ca



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*In the Heart of the Haliburton Highlands*

Ontario

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# Big Bike needs big participation to keep rolling in Highlands

by **DARREN LUM**  
Times Staff

The 30-person Heart and Stroke Foundation's Big Bike may have been taken for its last ride in the Highlands last year, if not enough people pre-register in the next few weeks.

As reported by Canoe FM, the Heart and Stroke Foundation is asking for greater participation so expenses related to transportation of the Big Bike and overnight accommodation are covered.

For the event to continue, there needs to be two more groups of close to the seating capacity of the Big Bike in Haliburton and one to two in Minden.

Chairperson of the Haliburton Highlands Stroke Support Group, Lois Rigney has been phoning around, looking to gain participation from organizations.

The Minden Hills resident appreciates the event for the fun of riding (she's ridden past seven years), help it provides and the money it raises, which funds important research so that, maybe, her children won't have to suffer.

"Maybe my kids won't go through this," she said, referring to her adult son and daughter.

Rigney, a grandmother of three grandsons and one granddaughter, said every seven minutes a person dies of a stroke in Canada, referring to the Heart and Stroke Foundation.

The Heart and Stroke Foundation of



The Pharmasave Heart Heroes steer the Heart and Stroke Foundation's Big Bike down Bobcaygeon Road last May. /SUE TIFFIN Staff

Canada is a national, non-profit organization, which funds research, educates and advocates for efforts to combat heart disease and stroke. The organization has also been funding gender equitable research, acknowledging the differences with men and women's hearts and brains. Past research was based on studies on men, expecting to apply to women.

Big Bike participants must be at least 14 years old. Rigney said the deadline to acquire the necessary support is mid-February. In addition to the foundation funding important research, it also contributes to efforts to bring defibrillators to communities, and offer CPR and first aid programs for first responders.

Rigney knows first-hand how stroke af-

fects loved ones and caregivers.

Her husband and former Minden Hills Reeve Ross Rigney suffered from a stroke, which changed their lives. He later died from cancer. She wonders if there is any truth to a theory that cancer could be connected to stroke. Research being funded by the foundation could reveal that, she said.

"We ride the bike because of the research the Heart and Stroke Foundation is doing to further reduce death from heart and stroke disease," she said.

Rigney said her support group, which had 10 people out for their most recent meeting, includes people who had endured a stroke as well as their caregivers.

"We discuss caregiver burnout in the group. My goodness when I take them separately into another room and the tears flow. It's major league what people go through that have been affected," she said.

In the last two years, the support group has lost five people.

Call Rigney at (705) 286-1765 if you're interested in participating in Haliburton.

Minden Pharmasave's Sandra Heywood invites the public to join her in enjoying the experience of riding the Big Bike.

"I don't think that anyone that rides in it doesn't have fun," she said.

Heywood said she's participated the past seven years and has been joined by members of the Rotary Club of Minden.

She knows the importance of heart research first hand, having a newborn grandson benefit.

Close to three years ago, her grandson Sebastian Havill was the focus of a groundbreaking medical procedure after being diagnosed with a rare heart disease, TGA, or a severe form of transposition of the great arteries. This means the two arteries that connect to the heart are switched and prevents a baby from receiving oxygen upon birth. His life was saved when he received the first ever balloon atrial septoplasty surgery performed in utero to treat his heart defect. Due to unique circumstances requiring surgery before he was born, the surgery was performed while still in his mother's uterus. It received a lot of media attention, headlining newspaper articles and television news media outlets throughout the province and the country. Once he was born further surgery was needed to correct the heart condition.

Although she rode the Big Bike before her grandson's experiences, she was further motivated, understanding how research can save lives.

Heywood said anyone interested in joining her can call her at work at Pharmasave (705)286-1220.

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		2						
4	3			2			9	1
9						7		2
	1		7				6	
	9			8				4
8		5			4		7	3
6	2			4			3	
5			1		3			8
3			9				1	

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*Answers on page 14*

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Skilled Trades & Industry	Highlander of the Year
New Business of the Year	

# Hands up for the next SIRCH Repair Cafe

by **DARREN LUM**  
Times Staff

SIRCH's Repair Cafe is coming to Minden. The first SIRCH Repair Cafe in Haliburton County finished with a 54.2 per cent repair rate, including 33.3 per cent of items that can still be fixed said event organizer Chris Varga.

Out of 48 repairs attempted, there were 26 completed, 16 items needed parts and will be repaired later, one could not be tested and four could not be repaired. Varga said it was an amazing outcome because more than half

of the items brought will not go to the landfill. "And in the process, we shared knowledge, had fun and got to know our neighbours along the way," he said.

There will be more Repair Cafes coming up such as on Saturday, March 7 at Archie Stouffer Elementary School in Minden, on Saturday, May 2 at Haliburton Highlands Secondary School and then Saturday, June 13 at ASES. All events are from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. More dates are expected.

See [www.sirch.on.ca/repaircafe/](http://www.sirch.on.ca/repaircafe/) for more information about what can and cannot be repaired.



With volunteers such as event organizer Chris Varga, far left, MPP Laurie Scott cuts the ceremonial ribbon beside SIRCH's Gena Robertson to officially start the SIRCH Repair Cafes on Saturday, Jan. 25 at Haliburton Highlands Secondary School.



Volunteer helper Jerry Misner uses a flashlight to gain a better view of the broken DVD player brought in by Minden resident Pat Bradley during the SIRCH Repair Cafe on Saturday, Jan. 25 at the Haliburton Highlands Secondary School. Held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., the event offered the public an opportunity to socialize, learn a skill, and find life in items thought to be trash. This event was made possible by SIRCH and partners, and volunteers, and included funding from the Ontario Trillium Foundation. / **DARREN LUM** Staff



Haliburton's Susan Keith rings the bell after her toaster was fixed by volunteer helper Markus Tuomi. The bell was used to signal a repair was completed during the SIRCH Repair Cafe.

## Staff Pick - January

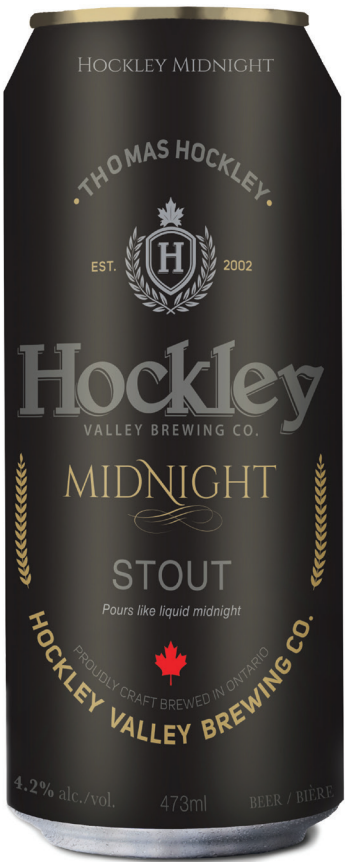
Nicole Dollover, Branch Assistant at the Minden Branch recommends:



**Death and Relaxation** by Devon Monk  
Police Chief Delaney Reed can handle the paranormal creatures who call the small beach town of Ordinary, Oregon their home. It's the vacationing gods that keep her up at night. With the famous Rhubarb Festival around the corner, small-town tensions, tempers, and godly tantrums are at an all-time high. The last thing she needs is a body washing ashore, especially the body of a god. Catching a murderer, wrestling a god power, and rescheduling the apocalypse? Just another day on the job in Ordinary. Falling in love with her childhood friend while trying to keep the secrets of her town secret? That's gonna take some work.

**Nicole Says:** A good, fast-paced romance that takes you into the realm of vacationing gods and murder. I'd definitely read more of Monk's novels.

Rating: 8 out of 10



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UPCOMING

Community Events

Want to get your event in Community Calendar? It's free! Contact Pat at [classifieds@haliburtonpress.com](mailto:classifieds@haliburtonpress.com)

**Minden & District Horticultural Society**  
When: Saturday, Feb. 1. Lunch at noon. 11:30 a.m. Social  
Where: Our Lady of Fatima Church, 7 Bobcaygeon Rd, Minden  
Guest Speaker: Jon Faulknor - Seed Starting and Succession Planting. Please bring your own plate, cutlery, cup and serving spoon  
[Mindenhorticulturalsociety.ca](mailto:Mindenhorticulturalsociety.ca), [minden@gardenontario.org](mailto:minden@gardenontario.org)  
**Minden Legion presents Gord Kidd & No Friends**  
When: Saturday, Feb. 1, 2 to 5 p.m.  
Where: Minden Legion  
Lunch available to purchase from 12 to 2 p.m., Meat Draw at 1 p.m.  
**Minden Pride Bowling**  
When: Saturday, Feb. 1 from 7 to 10 p.m.  
Where: Fast Lane Bowling, 12281 Hwy 35, Minden  
Join us for a night of bowling. Only \$5.  
Contact: 705-286-3900 or [fastlanebowling@outlook.com](mailto:fastlanebowling@outlook.com)  
**Haliburton County Snowmobile Association monthly meeting**  
When: Monday, Feb. 3 at 7 p.m.  
Where: HCSA Clubhouse, 171 Mallard Road in Haliburton's Industrial Park.  
It's a busy time for the HCSA with a number of projects on and off trail projects on the go. For further info email [info@hcsa.ca](mailto:info@hcsa.ca) or call 705-457-4263. Everyone is Welcome  
**100 Women Who Care Winter Meeting**  
When: Tuesday, Feb. 4  
Where: The Dominion Hotel, Dining Room, Minden  
Time: Social and Registration 6:30 p.m., meeting 7 p.m.  
We are 100 Women Who Care Haliburton County. We meet three times a year for one hour to raise money for local charities. Since we began we have raised over \$50,000. Why not come and see how we do it - it's awesome and it's fun!  
**Kinmount and District Educational Bursary, Annual Fundraiser Dinner/Auction**  
When: Saturday, Feb. 8, Doors Open at 5 p.m. Dinner is at 6 p.m.  
Where: Galway Hall  
To reserve tickets, phone 705 488-3053  
Tickets: \$20 each  
**Country Music Jamboree**  
When: Feb. 9 from 1 to 4:30 p.m., open mic  
Where: Coboconk Legion  
Hosted by the Country Hot Flashes with Scott Russell and Ron Lister. Food made available by the Legion Ladies Auxiliary at a reasonable cost. Admission: \$8.  
**Highlands Male Chorus: Winter Interlude**  
When: Sunday, Feb. 9 at 3 p.m.  
Where: Haliburton United Church  
General admission: adults - \$15, children under 16 - \$5, family - \$35. Tickets available at Cranberry Cottage in Haliburton and Pharmasave in Minden  
**Sexual Health Clinic**  
When: Wednesday, Feb. 12, 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.  
The clinic provides clients with confidential access to cervical screening, low-cost birth control, pregnancy testing and sexual health teaching. Testing and treatment of sexually transmitted infections are also provided. For more information, locations or to make an appointment, call the Health Unit at 1-866-888-4577, ext. 1205.

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Floats for Snowball

DORSETNEWS

Lee Ross  
[burgesslt@me.com](mailto:burgesslt@me.com)

The 30th annual Dorset Snowball is fast approaching. The carnival kicks off on Friday, Feb. 14 at 6 p.m. with the family skate at the Dorset Ice Palace. Saturday's events start at 8:30 a.m. with the pancake breakfast and are run all day, both indoors and out. Come on down to the Dorset Ice Palace on Saturday evening for Hockey Night in Dorset where the Dorset Hounds will face off against Lake of Bays for the Dorset Cup.

Snowball organizers are challenging local businesses to enter a float in the parade. If you'd like to enter, please be at Dorset Garage for 10:45 a.m. Saturday morning of the carnival. No float is too small and no float is too large, everyone is welcome to enter.

Chair yoga is on Jan. 29 at 10 to 10:45 a.m. at the Dorset Rec Centre. Chair yoga classes are for those who prefer to do yoga on a chair and are designed to improve balance and mobility, focusing on breath, body awareness, flexibility, and stress reduction. No mat needed. Comfortable clothing suggested. Cost is \$12 per class Contact Ardith Symmes for more information, 705-766-0686 or by email [asymmes8@gmail.com](mailto:asymmes8@gmail.com).

Happy Birthday to Nathan Jones and Ryan Flynn. For birthdays and submissions please send them to [burgesslt@me.com](mailto:burgesslt@me.com).



Bowling Scores

**Monday afternoon, Jan. 20**  
**High Average (cumulative)**  
Women – Cathy Snell – 220  
Men – Rick West – 227  
**This Week's Highs – Women**  
High Single – Cathy Snell – 267  
High Single Hcp – Cathy Snell – 272  
High Triple – Cathy Snell – 701  
High Triple Hcp – Cathy Snell – 716  
**This Week's Highs – Men**  
High Single – Rick West – 232  
High Single Hcp – Ken Thompson – 265  
High Triple – Rick West – 625  
High Triple Hcp – Ken Thompson – 695

**Tuesday Jan. 21**  
**Men**  
High Average – Claude Cote – 196  
High Single – Randy Moritz – 236  
High Single H/C – Randy Moritz – 294  
High Triple – Claude Cote – 643  
High Triple H/C – Claude Cote – 715

**Women**  
High Average – Chris Cote – 183  
High Single – Mabel Clendenning – 214  
High Single H/C – Johanna Hayward – 270  
High Triple – Chris Cote – 509  
High Triple H/C – Lynda Weir – 670

**Thursday afternoon, Jan. 23**  
**Ladies:**  
High Single: Elli Welch – 214  
High Single w/hdcp: Elli Welch – 276  
High Triple: Pat Stiver – 534  
High Triple w/hdcp: Loretto Cummings – 712  
**Men:**  
High Single: John Bell 216  
High Single w/hdcp: Mike Yateman 268  
High Triple: Doug Reinwald 580  
High Triple w/hdcp: John Bell 670



NOTICE

SPECIAL MEETING

2020 Budget Deliberations

**TAKE NOTICE** that Council will commence its 2020 budget deliberations at a Special Meeting of Council scheduled for **Wednesday, February 19, 2020 at 9:00 a.m.**

**TAKE NOTICE** that Council will continue its 2020 budget deliberations during its Regular Meeting scheduled for **Thursday, February 20, 2020 at 9:00 a.m.**

Both meetings will take place in the Council Chambers located at 1123 North Shore Road, Algonquin Highlands.

Dated this 29<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2020.

Dawn Newhook, Clerk  
Township of Algonquin Highlands  
1123 North Shore Road  
Algonquin Highlands, ON K0M 1J1  
Tel: (705) 489-2379  
[dnewhook@algonquinhighlands.ca](mailto:dnewhook@algonquinhighlands.ca)

SUDOKU SOLUTION

1	7	2	4	5	9	3	8	6
4	3	6	8	2	7	5	9	1
9	5	8	3	1	6	7	4	2
2	1	4	7	3	5	8	6	9
7	9	3	6	8	1	2	5	4
8	6	5	2	9	4	1	7	3
6	2	1	5	4	8	9	3	7
5	4	9	1	7	3	6	2	8
3	8	7	9	6	2	4	1	5



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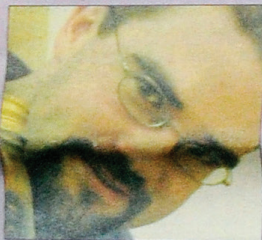
## This week



### Break-dancing

Photographer Darren Lum takes an eagle eye look at the hills of Eagle Lake on March Break.

Page 16



### The fish man

Brent Wootton talks about the infinitely interesting secret life of streams.

Page 14

### Notable quotes:

"There was just one little snag when I was asked to write about the people and activities of Stanhope Township. Turns out there is no such place."

Pat McNinch,  
new Stanhope News columnist,  
page 26

### Commentary:

"The marriage has been good for hockey in this county."

Editorial, page 8

## On strike! OPSEU fights for 'fair deal'



Strikers and supporters gathered on the picket line in front of the government offices on Highway 35 in Minden Thursday. Seen here, left to right, are: Kyle Fry, Steve Fox, Gerry Moraal, Jim Fry, Dean Hewitt, Gayle Clements, Anita Marshall (and Buddy), Linda Robitaille, Ron MacKenzie, Brent Robitaille and Matt Clements.

### Only one person attempts to cross the picket line in Minden

by JERRY GROZELLE  
Times staff

The Ontario Public Service Employees Union (OPSEU) exercised its legal right to strike March 13. The strike affects a couple of dozen OPSEU employees from Minden and Haliburton. Government offices such as the Ministry of Natural Resources in Minden and the MNR Fire Management Centre in Haliburton, the Ministry of Transportation, the Probation Office and the Registry Office are affected.

As of Thursday, only one person had crossed the picket line.

"We had one incident with one fellow crossing the line," said Gerry Moraal, a biologist with the MNR and one of the team captains on the picket line. "There have been no outstanding issues so far."

"He crossed yesterday [after being delayed]," said Ron MacKenzie of the MNR Fire Station in Haliburton and also a team captain. "We held him up for about an hour this morning and then he left."

On Thursday morning, there were just two managers inside the government offices on Highway 35.

If the number of drivers honking their horns on the way past the picketers in front of the government office on Highway 35 in Minden is any indication, support for

see OPSEU page 2

## Council to consider Clean & Clear by-law — again — March 28

by ALLISON TAYLOR  
Times staff

With a unanimous recommendation by the Legislation, Building, By-law and Fire Committee, the contentious clean and clear bylaw will go before council for a first and second reading on March 28.

After listening to a short presentation by Minden Hills resident Bruce Bozec, showing support for a clean and clear by-law, the committee held a brief discussion before passing the proposal on to the next stage.

The by-law will appear before the full council on March 26. The public will then be given the next 30 days to read the by-law either on the municipality's web site, or a copy can be picked up at the municipal office.

"If they want to appear before council they can," said Reeve Ross Rigney, trying to get the public to voice

see MCMAHON page 4



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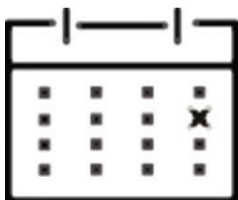
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